

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230084

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM: STATE LETTER TO
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST SENT THE FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL
LETTER TO DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL PETER FLAHERTY TODAY:

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. FLAHERTY:

--- I AM WRITING TO YOU CONCERNING THE PROBLEM OF ANTI-
YUGOSLAV TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES, AND PARTICU-
LARLY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUS INCIDENTS WITH-
IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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--- AS YOU KNOW, THE FREQUENCY AND SERIOUSNESS OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS ON YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS AND INSTALLATIONS
IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE INCREASED SHARPLY IN THE PAST
TWO YEARS. THE MOST SERIOUS EVENTS HAVE BEEN THE BOMBING
AT THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN JUNE 1976, THE HIJACKING
OF A TWA PLANE BY CROATIAN SEPARATISTS IN SEPTEMBER 1976
AND THE BREAK-IN AND APPARENT KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT AT THE

UN MISSION IN NEW YORK IN JUNE 1977. IN THE HIJACKING CASE, FOUR CROATIAN SEPARATISTS WERE GIVEN STIFF SENTENCES; AND IN THE UN MISSION BREAK-IN, THE PERPETRATORS WERE CAUGHT AND ARE NOW BEING TRIED. NO ONE HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN ANY OF THE NUMEROUS OTHER INCIDENTS (LIST ATTACHED).

--- NOW WE ARE FACED WITH A SERIES OF EVENTS OCCURRING WITHIN A VERY BRIEF PERIOD OF TIME WHICH INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES. THE YUGOSLAV DEPUTY FOREIGN SECRETARY, LAZAR MOJSOV, HAS BEEN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE SESSION BEGINNING THIS WEEK. THE YUGOSLAV FOREIGN SECRETARY, MILOS MINIC, WILL ALSO BE IN NEW YORK ATTENDING THE UNGA SEPTEMBER 24 TO OCTOBER 3. IN ADDITION, YUGOSLAV PRESIDENCY MEMBER EDVARD KARDELJ, WHO IS TITO'S HEIR APPARENT, WILL BE PAYING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 5. FINALLY, THE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, WHICH WILL DISCUSS QUESTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER ISSUES, OPENS IN BELGRADE ON OCTOBER 4 AND MAY SERVE TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON YUGOSLAVIA.

--- IN OUR VIEW, THIS CONVERGENCE OF EVENTS, SOME OF WHICH WILL BE GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY, GREATLY INCREASES CONFIDENTIAL

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THE LIKELIHOOD OF TERRORIST ACTS BY EMIGRES AND AMERICAN CITIZENS OF YUGOSLAV DESCENT WHO SEEK THEREBY TO GAIN PUBLIC ATTENTION FOR THEIR POLITICAL CAUSE. WE REQUEST, THEREFORE, THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT EXERCISE PARTICULAR VIGILANCE DURING THIS PERIOD IN ORDER TO ANTICIPATE POSSIBLE INCIDENTS AND TO TAKE TIMELY ACTION TO THWART THEM.

--- BEYOND THIS IMMEDIATE PERIOD, WE WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THE OVERALL PROBLEM OF ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES WITH A VIEW TO FINDING BETTER WAYS TO PREVENT INCIDENTS, TO PROTECT YUGOSLAV PERSONNEL AND OFFICES AND IF INCIDENTS DO OCCUR, TO APPREHEND THE PERPETRATORS. THERE WILL BE OTHER EVENTS AND OTHER VISITORS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING A VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY PRESIDENT TITO NEXT YEAR, WHICH MAKE IT NECESSARY TO BRING THIS PROBLEM UNDER MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL.

--- I AM ATTACHING A LIST OF RECENT INCIDENTS TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF THEIR FREQUENCY AND SERIOUSNESS. THIS LIST WAS PROVIDED BY THE FBI.

--- I HAVE ASKED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM
LUERS (632-1752) TO FOLLOW THIS MATTER AND TO PROVIDE
ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE THAT YOU MAY
REQUIRE. SINCERELY, GEORGES S. VEST, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. END TEXT. VANCE

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